

H A V E R F O R D W E S T  
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B O R O U G H  
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C O U N C I L  
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A N N U A L                      R E P O R T



of the

M E D I C A L    O F F I C E R    O F    H E A L T H

for the year

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H A V E R F O R D W E S T  
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Preface to the Report.

District Health Office  
County Offices.  
Haverfordwest.

July, 1956

To The Mayor & Members of the  
Haverfordwest Borough Council.

Mr Mayor & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Report upon matters affecting the health of the Public, within the Borough, for the year 1955.

The population of the Borough has increased gradually, but steadily, over the past 8 years: from 7,156 in 1947 to 7,900 in 1955. The majority of the increase has taken place since 1952.

The Birth Rate for the year showed an increase over the preceding year, whilst the Rate is considerably lower than the immediate Post War years, it is steadily rising and is well in advance of the National Rate.

The Still Birth Rate was exceptionally low for the year, and the Illegitimate Rate was average. Birth Rates showed a great improvement over the preceding year.

The Death Rate created a low record for 1955, being considerably lower than the National Rate. It is the lowest Annual Rate recorded since 1947, and probably the lowest ever.

Only one Infant Death gave an exceedingly low Infant Mortality Rate.

Cancer mortality is about on a par with National statistics.

There was a noticeable reduction in the number of violent deaths over the preceding year.

Infectious Diseases presented no unusual incidence during the year. In the body of the Report, it will be seen that only 1 case of Diphtheria was notified in Wales during 1955. Also in the Section dealing with Infectious Diseases reference is made to the new Immunisation procedure against Poliomyelitis.

The number of fresh cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis increased over the preceding year. The number, however, is not unduly high. It will be noted that there were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year. For 3 out of the past 4 years, the mortality, in the Borough, from this disease, has been nil. In the appropriate Section of the Report, reference is made to B.C.G. vaccination against Tuberculosis.

Part III of the Report reflects the routine work of the Sanitary and other Departments of the Council. Milk & Water supplies continue to be satisfactory, both in regard to quantity and quality. The new service reservoir at Portfield Gate will overcome many of the water problems of the past.

The de-centralisation of slaughtering has resulted in some reduction in the work at the Borough Abattoir. The volume of work, however, is still considerable as will be seen from the Section on meat inspection.

The Post-War Housing shortage has largely been met. There will still be a need, however, for a planned Housing programme on a small scale, with particular reference to housing for elderly people. The opportunity exists, also, for clearing the old and unsightly areas in the Borough.







The outstanding problem of unsatisfactory household refuse containers remains unsolved. We are also awaiting the change over to a new disposal point for refuse.

There are no other major problems of hygiene and sanitation in the Borough.

I wish to stress the valuable work, mostly routine, of the Sanitary Department, under the guidance of Mr.D.B.Evans, the Chief Sanitary Inspector. This, of course, does not detract from the essential services provided by other Departments of the Council.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all members of the Council, and the Officers, for their continued courtesy and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant.

W.J.Y.Speedy.

Medical Officer of Health.

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# CONSTITUTION OF RELEVANT COMMITTEES

His Worship The Mayor:Clr.Major.J.F.Green. TD.  
 Deputy Mayor :Alderman.Lt.Col.R.F.Foster. TD. DL.  
 Sheriff :Clr.H.Dickenson.

Chairman - Sanitary Committee:Clr.Capt.R.G.Noott. JP.

Chairman - Housing Committee :Alderman. L.H.Ellis.

Chairman - Water Committee :Alderman.Lt.Col.R.F.Foster. TD. DL.

Other Members of the Council, (on all committees)

Alderman.Claude.E.Davies. MM.  
 Alderman.L.T.Fisher.  
 Councillor.C.Ivor Male.  
 Councillor. W.A.Davies.  
 Councillor.R.D.Jones.  
 Councillor.J.A.Harries.  
 Councillor.Colin.T.Price.  
 Councillor.C.B.James.  
 Councillor.Rev.E.J.Green.MM.  
 Councillor.T.D.Evans. JP.  
 Councillor.T.G.Parry.

## Senior Officials of the Council.

Town Clerk and Solicitor:R.Ivor Rees.  
 Date of appointmeht:- 23.10.45.

Deputy Town Clerk: W.Leslie Gibbon.  
 Date of appointment:-23.1.20

Surveyor & Engineer:J.B.Hemingway.F.R.I.C.S.,M.I.Mun.E.,M.R.San.I.  
 Date of appointment:-1.6.24.

Deputy Surveyor & Engineer:H.Ivor Thomas.A.M.I.Mun.E.  
 Date of appointment:-28.6.55.

Treasurer: F.R.Lowther. F.C.A.  
 Date of appointment:- 1.6.24.

Senior Sahitary Inspector: D.B.Evans.M.S.I.A.  
 Date of appointment:- 20.6.38.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:G.W.Cole. M.S.I.A.  
 Date of appointment:- 22.3.55.

Medical Officer of Health:W.J.Y.Speedy.M.B.,B.Ch.,L.R.C.P.&S.,  
 L.R.F.P&S., D.P.H.

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P A R T IVITAL STATISTICS AND EPIDEMIOLOGYSummary of Vital Statistics for 1955.

Estimated Mid-Year Population	.....	7,890	
Natural Increase in Population	.....	+82	
Birth - Rate	.....	18.7	(a)
Still Birth - Rate.	.....	6.2	(b)
Illegitimate Birth - Rate.	.....	31.1	(c)
General Death - Rate.	.....	8.9	(a)
Infant Mortality - Rate.	.....	6.2	(c)
Cancer Death - Rate.	.....	1.7	(a)
Tuberculosis Death - Rate.	.....	Nil.	(a)

(a) per 1000 population.

(b) per 1000 Total Births.

(c) per 1000 Live Births.

Births & Birth - Rates.Classification of Births.

	<u>Live.</u>			<u>Still.</u>		
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	74	81	155	1	0	1
Illegitimate	3	2	5	0	0	0
	77	83	160	1	0	1

Total Live & Still Births for 1955	=	161
Total Live Births for 1955	=	160
Total Still Births for 1955	=	1
Total Illegitimate Births for 1955	=	5

Birth - Rates.

Birth-Rate for the Borough for 1955	=	18.7/1000 Pop.
Birth-Rate for the County for 1955	=	17.6 " "
Birth-Rate for England & Wales for 1955	=	15.0 " "

The Birth-Rate for the Borough is considerably higher than the Rate for the County and the whole of England & Wales.

The following Table shows the Birth-Rate for the Borough each year since 1947:-

1947	=	24.3	/1000 population.
1948	=	19.6	" "
1949	=	18.2	" "
1950	=	16.9	" "
1951	=	16.1	" "
1952	=	16.3	" "
1953	=	17.8	" "
1954	=	17.6	" "
1955	=	18.7	" "



STILL BIRTHS

There was only one still Birth during the year.

Still Birth-Rate for the Borough for 1955	= 6.2/1000 pop
Still Birth-Rate for the County for 1955	=28.5 " "
Still Birth-Rate for England & Wales for 1955	=23.1 " "

It will be seen that the Still Birth-Rate in the Borough, therefore, was very much lower than the Rate for the County, and the whole of England & Wales.

The following Table shows that number of Still Births and the Still Birth-Rate in the Borough each year since 1947:-

<u>No. of Still Births.</u>			<u>Still Birth-Rate.</u>			
1947	=	4	23.0/1000 Total Births.			
1948	=	3	21.1	"	"	"
1949	=	2	15.0	"	"	"
1950	=	3	23.6	"	"	"
1951	=	1	8.5	"	"	"
1952	=	8	62.9	"	"	"
1953	=	2	14.0	"	"	"
1954	=	8	52.3	"	"	"
1955	=	1	6.2	"	"	"

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

There were 5 Illegitimate Births during the year:-

Illegitimate Birth-Rate for the Borough for 1955	= 31.3/1000 live births
Illegitimate Birth-Rate for County for 1955	= 33.7 " "
Illegitimate Birth-Rate for England & Wales 1955	= " "

The following Table shows the number of Illegitimate Births and Birth-Rates, each year since 1947:-

<u>No. of Illegitimate Births.</u>			<u>Rate.</u>
1947	=	12	68.8
1948	=	13	90.8
1949	=	3	22.3
1950	=	5	40.0
1951	=	3	25.6
1952	=	4	33.5
1953	=	7	50.0
1954	=	10	69.0
1955	=	5	31.1

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DEATHS AND DEATH RATES.Classification of Deaths Registered 1955

	M.	F.	Total.
Diseases of Heart & Circulatory System	12	14	26
Cancer (all forms)	9	5	14
Diseases of Brain & Nervous System	6	6	12
Diseases of Respiratory System	3	2	5
Violent Deaths	2	2	4
General Infectious Diseases	3	0	3
Diseases of Kidneys & Urinary System	2	0	2
Diseases of the Blood	1	-	1
Tuberculosis	9	0	9
Unclassified	5	6	11
	43	35	78

General Death Rates.

Death Rate for Borough for 1955	= 8.9/1000 Pop.
Death Rate for County for 1955	= 12.44 " "
Death Rate for England & Wales for 1955	= 11.7 " "

The Death Rate for the Borough is considerably lower than the Rate for the County and the whole of England & Wales.

The following Table shows the annual Death Rate for the Borough since 1947:-

1947	=	12.0
1948	=	12.8
1949	=	12.9
1950	=	11.9
1951	=	11.9
1952	=	11.3
1953	=	20.4
1954	=	13.4
1955	=	8.9

Infant Mortality.

There was only one Infant Death during the year.

Infant Mortality Rate for Borough for 1955	= 6.2/1000 live births
Infant Mortality Rate for County for 1955	= 23.1 " "
Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales 1955	= 24.9 " "

The Infant Mortality Rate for the year was exceptionally low.

The following Table shows the Infant Mortality Rate and number of Infant Deaths each year since 1947 in the Borough:-

	<u>No. of deaths.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1947	9	51.7
1948	5	35.9
1949	5	38.1
1950	4	32.0
1951	3	17.6
1952	3	25.2
1953	1	7.1
1954	4	27.6
1955	1	6.2



Cancer Mortality.

The following Table classifies the Cancer deaths in the Borough during the year:-

	M.	F.	Total.
Cancer of Stomach	2	3	5
Cancer of Lungs	3	1	4
Others	4	1	5
	9	5	14

Cancer Death Rate for Borough for 1955 = 1.7/1000 population  
 Cancer Death Rate for England & Wales 1955 = 2.056 " "

The following Table shows the number of Cancer Deaths and Mortality Rates in the Borough, each year since 1947:-

	No. of deaths.	Rate.
1947 =	8	1.1
1948 =	15	2.0
1949 =	13	1.78
1950 =	17	2.3
1951 =	14	2.2
1952 =	14	1.9
1953 =	17	2.2
1954 =	21	2.7
1955 =	14	1.7

Violent Deaths.

There were 3 Violent Deaths during the year, one Suicide and 2 Accidents.

The following Table shows the number of Violent Deaths in the Borough each year since 1947:-

1947	=	4
1948	=	2
1949	=	3
1950	=	3
1951	=	4
1952	=	2
1953	=	3
1954	=	8
1955	=	3



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following Table shows the Infectious Diseases notified during the year:-

Measles.	=	39
Whooping Cough	=	8
Sonne Dysentry	=	4
Scarlet Fever	=	3

This represents a very low incidence of Infectious Disease.

### Measles & Whooping Cough.

The following Table shows the incidence of Measles and Whooping Cough each year since 1947:-

		<u>Measles.</u>	<u>Whooping Cough.</u>
1947	=	35	0
1948	=	11	15
1949	=	4	37
1950	=	6	0
1951	=	252	28
1952	=	1	12
1953	=	70	2
1954	=	0	17
1955	=	39	8

The bi-annual wave of Measles infection is shown by the increase of notifications in the odd years.

The effect of immunisation against whooping cough, available over the last 4-5 years is not apparent.

With modern anti-biotics neither disease reached the degree of severity of former years.

### Sonne Dysentry

This disease has been more widespread within the last year or so, it is of a mild nature, and probably many mild cases are never very ill and not notified.

The control of the disease is essentially a problem of personal hygiene.

### Scarlet Fever.

Modern anti-biotics have apparently strangled Scarlet Fever at birth.

### Enteric Fever.

The attention paid to high bacteriological standards of water & milk supplies (routine sampling etc), has practically eliminated the danger of explosive epidemics of Typhoid & Para-Typhoid Fevers.

### Diphtheria.

The Borough has been free of Diphtheria since 1947.

Undoubtedly the National Immunisation campaign, commenced in 1941, has contributed largely to this result. But some authorities state that in addition there has been a natural remission of the Disease. Also it is vulnerable to anti-biotics.

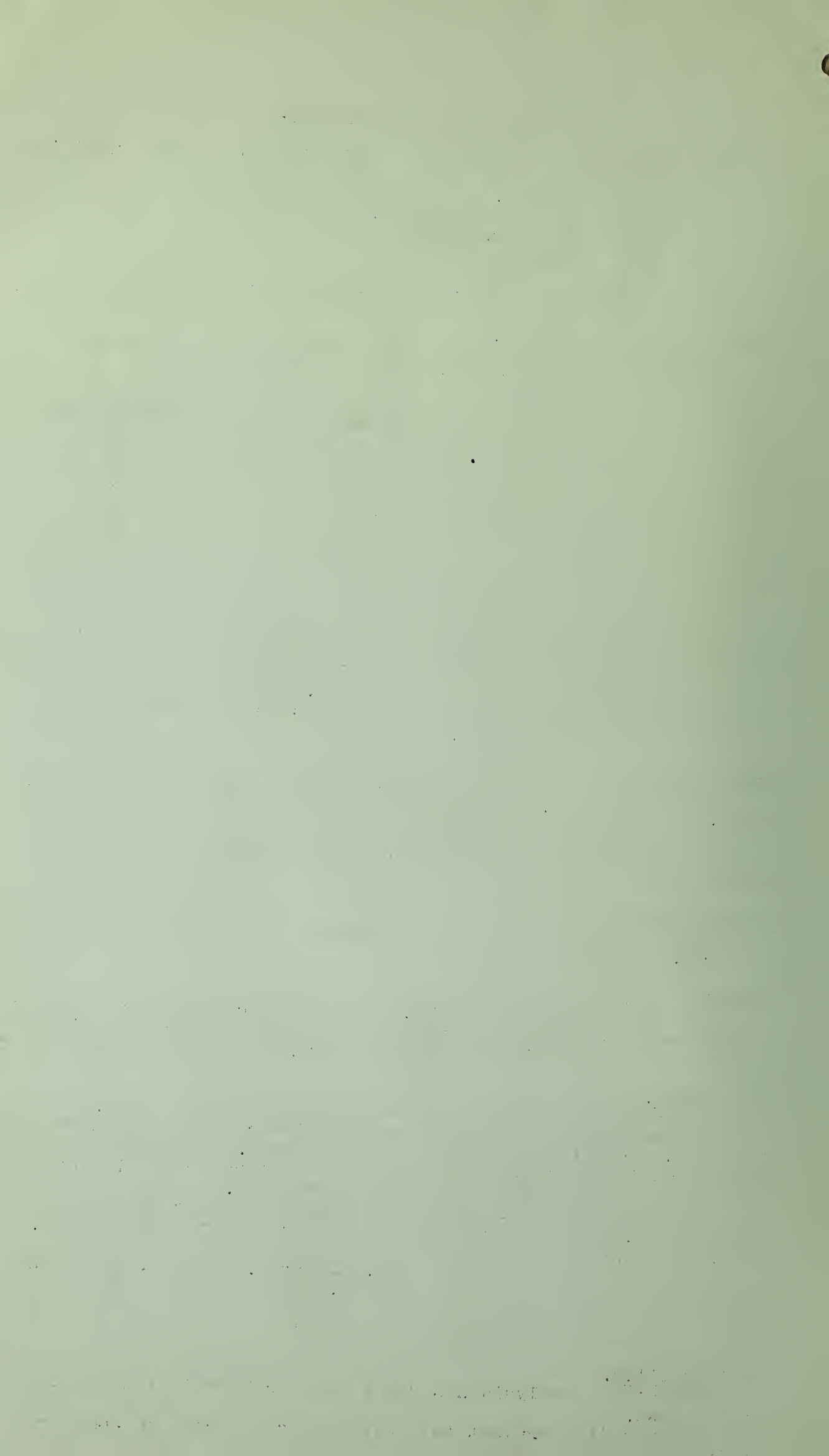
The following table shows the number of cases of Diphtheria notified, and the number of deaths, Wales, for the years 1945, 1949, & 1955:-

	<u>No. of cases.</u>	<u>No. of deaths-</u>
1945	1,411	57
1949	102	1
1955	1	0

### Poliomyelitis.

Infantile Paralysis has not been a problem in the Borough in the past.

Immunisation against this disease is expected to commence during 1956.





TUBERCULOSIS.Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There were 5 fresh cases notified of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the Borough (4 males & 1 female) during the year.

There were no deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year.

The following Table shows the number of fresh cases and the number of deaths each year since 1947:-

	<u>Fresh cases</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
1947	7	3
1948	10	3
1949	7	3
1950	1	2
1951	8	3
1952	2	0
1953	1	2
1954	2	0
1955	5	0

The decrease in fresh cases is not outstanding, but the trend to lower mortality from the disease is evident.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

One fresh case was notified during the year, there were no deaths.

The following Table shows the number of cases notified, and the number of deaths each year since 1947:-

	<u>Cases.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
1947	5	1
1948	1	1
1949	1	0
1950	2	2
1951	2	0
1952	2	0
1953	0	0
1954	1	1
1955	1	0

Miniature Mass Radiography

The Miniature Mass Radiography Unit continues to visit the County at approximately 18 months interval. The next visit is expected in the Spring of 1956.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

B.C.G. Vaccination was commenced in Secondary School children during the latter part of 1955. The aim is to vaccinate all 13 year old children who have no naturally acquired resistance to the Disease.

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P A R T    I IE N V I R O N M E N T A L   H Y G I E N EM I L K   S U P P L I E S .Milk Sampling.

The milk sampling scheme, at consumer level, continued during the year. Samples were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory, Carmarthen, for testing and report.

General Bacteriological Sampling.

	<u>Satis.</u>	<u>D'ful.</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1. General Consumer level.	70	1	9	80
2. Schools.	31	0	1	32
	101	1	10	112
3. Bottle Rinsings.	2	0	0	2
	103	1	10	114

Biological Sampling.

Nil.

The following Table shows the number & percentage of satisfactory Milk Samples since 1948:-

	<u>No. of samples.</u>	<u>% satisfactory.</u>
1948.	131	65.6%
1949.	124	59.0%
1950.	81	75.3%
1951.	34	82.3%
1952.	22	86.3%
1953.	99	84.8%
1954.	157	88.6%
1955.	114	90.0%

Milk Distributors.

The following is a classification of the Milk Distributors in the Borough:-

Ungraded (Raw)	= 1
Designated (Raw)	= 3
Designated (Pasteurised)	= 4
	-----
Total.	= 8



Sources of Supply

1. Prescelly. The Prescelly gathering grounds and Impounding Reservoir (capacity 160,000,000 gallons) are situated in North East Pembrokeshire. As a constituent member of the Prescelly Water Board, the Borough has an allocation from this source. The present allocation is 350,000 gallons per day. This water is a typical upland surface water, being soft and somewhat acid. It is relatively free from pollution, and passes through a modern filtration and chlorination plant before entering the trunk main. The chemical and bacteriological condition of the water is controlled, at source, by routine sampling (organised by the Engineer of the Prescelly Water Board).

2. Crowhill Well. This is a shallow well on the Western Bank of the Western Cleddau, situated approximately one mile from the Borough. The supply is fluctuating, but on the average 150,000 gallons per day are provided from this source.

Service & Storage Reservoirs The present storage capacity amounts to approximately 1 day's supply. During December 1955, however, work commenced on a new storage & service reservoir at Portfield Gate. This, when completed, will augment storage by over 400,000 gallons. It will also overcome certain service difficulties.

Water Sampling.

<u>General Bacteriological.</u>	<u>Satis.</u>	<u>D'ful.</u>	<u>Unsat.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Consumer level.	42	1	5	48

Chemical Analysis

Source.	2	0	0	2
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	<u>FOOD</u>	<u>CONTROL</u>
<u>Registered Premises (Food &amp; Drugs Act)</u>		
Prepared Foods		= 7
Ice Cream Premises		= 43
Slaughter Houses.		= 1
Knacker's Yards		= 0
Dairies		= 2
Mineral Water Factories		= 2

Foodstuffs Condemned during 1955

<u>Tinned Foods</u>	Peas	= 39 tins.	Plums	= 37 tins
	Apricots	= 37 "	Tomatoes	= 32 "
	Pineapples	= 17 "	Cherries	= 15 "
	Peaches	= 16 "	Milk	= 13 "
	Ham	= 11 "	Fruit salad	= 8 "
	Luncheon Meat	= 7 "	Grape Fruit	= 7 "
	Oranges	= 6 "	Veal	= 5 "
	Beef	= 5 "	Rice	= 5 "
	Peas	= 5 "	Sheep Tongue	= 4 "
	Corned Beef	= 3 "	Beans	= 3 "
	Strawberries	= 2 "		

Open Foods

Fish Cakes	= 62	Peanuts	= 56 lbs
Bananas	= 4,923 lbs.	Bacon	= 48½ "
Plums	= 35 "	Cheese	= 12½ "





Ice Cream.

<u>Registration.</u>	Producers	=	3
	Retailers	=	40

Sampling (General Bacteriological)

Grade I	(Highly Satisfactory)	=	25
Grade II	(Satisfactory)	=	5
Grade III	(Doubtful)	=	4
Grade IV	(Unsatisfactory)	=	6
		-----	
Total		=	40

Mineral Water

There are two establishments in the Borough producing Mineral Waters. Routine rinsings are taken from the bottles and subjected to general bacteriological examination. The standard of bottle cleansing has tended to be low, but with constant supervision and sampling, there has been an improvement.

A large number of retail premises sell mineral waters, some produced locally, and others produced outside the District. 5 bottles of mineral waters were taken during the year and subjected to general bacteriological examination. All proved to be satisfactory.

Bakehouses.

There are 7 bakehouses in the Borough. All are subjected to periodical inspection. One of these was treated, during the year, for major infestation of cockroaches.

Sausage & Prepared Food Premises.

There are 7 of these premises in the Borough. All are subjected to periodical inspection.

Cafes, Hotels, Restaurants etc.

There are 12 Cafes, 7 Hotels, 3 Mobile Canteens, 5 Fresh Fish Shops, and 2 Chip Vans operating in the Borough. All are subjected to periodical inspection.

Food Hygiene Regulations -1956

In order to bring Food Shops, Hotels, and other premises, into line with these regulations, extensive inspections will be required.

All persons concerned have been supplied with extracts of the Regulations.

Food Prosecution.

A A prosecution in regard to a cockroach in bread rolls was successful. Another prosecution in regard to fish of inferior quality was ~~not~~ dismissed.

Food Poisoning.

Nil to report.





MEAT INSPECTION.

Table A shows the number of animals slaughtered at the Slaughter House, during the year:-

Table A

Steers.	1,373
Cows.	896
Calves.	389
Sheep & Lambs.	7,362
Pigs.	5,018
	-----
Total.	15,038

Table B shows the number of complete carcasses condemned:-

Table B

	<u>Tuberculosis.</u>	<u>Others.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Steers	2	3	5
Cows	1	25	26
Calves	1	8	9
Sheep & Lambs	0	14	14
Pigs	0	8	8
	-----	-----	-----
Total	4	58	62

Table C shows the number of animals in which part was condemned:-

Table C

	<u>Tuberculosis.</u>	<u>Cysticercosis.</u>	<u>Other causes.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Steers	161	22	94	277
Cows	73	4	128	205
Calves	7	0	0	7
Sheep & Lambs	0	0	140	140
Pigs	126	0	31	157
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total.	367	26	393	786



HOUSING.Council Housing Programme.

Number of Council Houses completed in 1955	=	101
Number of Council Houses under construction at 31st December, 1955	=	33

The following is a summary of all Council Housing in the Borough:-

Traditional Houses	=	798
Airey Houses	=	22
Prefabricated Bungalows	=	50
Miscellaneous	=	7
		-----
Total		877

Housing Improvement Grants.

33 applications received and granted during the year. 30 of these have been commenced with 17 completed.

Housing Demand & Need.

To meet outstanding housing demands & need, it is estimated that the following new houses are required:-

Traditional Houses or Flats - subsidised	=	216
non- subsidised	=	61
Bungalows (old people)	=	32
		-----
Total	=	309

General Statistics (Sanitary Department)

Routine Inspections	=	280
Informal notices	=	46
Statutory notices	=	19
Section XI notices	=	17
Closing Orders	=	2
Demolition Orders	=	4
Undertakings accepted	=	13
Complete House Surveys	=	57

FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS

There are 98 premises in the Borough coming within the meaning of the Factories & Workshops Act.

109 inspections were carried out during the year. 7 defects were found and dealt with informally, no notices were served.

There are 9 registered outworkers in the Borough. The majority of these are not legally notified to the Council, and prosecution should be undertaken.



GENERAL                      SANITATION

General Nuisances.

23 General Nuisances, chiefly in regard to defective drainage, were dealt with during the year.

Disinfection & Disinfestation.

6 Premises were fumigated following Infectious Diseases. 16 Premises were treated for cockroach, flea, & ant infestation. One house was treated for infestation with grain weevil.

Rodent Control.

The following is a summary of rodent control during the year:-

	No. of surveys.	Rats	Treatment Mice	Total Treatments
Business Premises	55	21	9	30
Dwelling Houses	384	186	61	237
Council Property	15	9	1	10
Sewers	2	2	0	2
Refuse Tip	3	4	0	4
Agricultural Property	17	0	0	0

Refuse Disposal

The collection of refuse is satisfactory, but the household storage, and the disposal, is still unsatisfactory. The attention of the Council has been drawn to these matters several times.

Sewerage & Sewage Disposal.

The majority of sewage and waste from the Borough is discharged, untreated, into the river Cleddau as it passes through the town. The potential danger to health has been stressed for many years. The discharge of sewage into the river requires to be transferred further downstream, or partially treated before discharge, or both.

The Joint Disposal Scheme at Merlins Bridge, with the Haverfordwest Rural District Council, is now in operation, and covers the Dale Road Area of the Borough. The Council's consulting Engineers are preparing a report on problems relating to sewage disposal from the remainder of the town and the completion of this scheme would provide for practically 100% coverage in the Borough.

Mortuaries.

The Mortuary on St Thomas Green is jointly used with the Haverfordwest Rural District Council.

It is satisfactorily equipped and in a clean condition.





Hygiene and Sanitation in Public Houses.

Generally speaking satisfactory.

Hygiene and Sanitation in Public Halls and Cinemas.

Generally speaking satisfactory.

Public Conveniences.

The position regarding Public Conveniences remains reasonably satisfactory. There would, however, appear to be a need for a further convenience nearer the centre of the town to serve the shopping area.

Smoke Abatement.	}	
Public Baths and Wash-houses.		
Offensive Trades.		Nil
Common Lodging Houses.		
Enhumations.		to
Burial of the Vagrant Dead.	}	
Removal of Persons to Institutions.		Report.

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